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Obituaries

Former congressman Robert McClory, 80

By Kenan Heise

Former Republican U.S. Rep. Robert McClory, 80, who represented the North Shore in Congress from 1962 to 1982, drafted an article of impeachment in 1974 against then-President Richard Nixon, a member of his own party.

Rep. McClory, the second-ranking Republican on the House Judiciary Committee, had previously been a staunch supporter of Nixon.

Memorial services for Rep. McClory, a longtime resident of Lake Bluff who remained in Washington after he left Congress, will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday in Grace United Methodist Church, 244 E. Center Ave., Lake Bluff. He died after suffering a heart attack Sunday at a Washington church.

Rep. McClory, a Riverside native, attended L'Institut Stillig, Vevey, Switzerland, and Dartmouth College.

While attending the latter, he worked as a waiter. On at least one occasion, he let his classmate and good friend, Nelson D. Rockefeller Jr., take his place. Rep. McClory later reported that Rockefeller, one of the richest young men in the world and later vice president of the United States, had done a creditable job as a substitute waiter.

A graduate of Kent College of Law, Rep. McClory practiced law in Chicago and later in Waukegan. He was chairman of the Lake County Federation of Young Republicans and was elected in 1950 to the Illinois House. He was elected to the state Senate in 1952, 1956 and 1960.

In the state legislature, he was noted for being a hard worker. He sponsored the bill raising the minimum driving age to 16 and co-sponsored considerable highway safety legislation. He also was chairman of the judicial advisory council.

He was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1962. Rep. McClory subsequently served on the House Judiciary Committee and was a member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

While in Congress, Rep. McClory, although recognized as a conservative, pushed for voting rights legislation and was a House manager of



Robert McClory in 1982

the Equal Rights Amendment. He also sponsored legislation providing that federal holidays such as Labor Day and Memorial Day be celebrated on Mondays.

During Nixon's impeachment hearings, Rep. McClory said he was not convinced that Nixon was directly involved in the Watergate cover-up, but rejected suggestions that he had a partisan obligation to defend Nixon against all of the accusations.

"I have heard it said by some that they cannot understand how a Republican could vote to impeach a Republican president," he said in the committee's opening debate on impeachment. "Let me hasten to assert that that argument demeans my role here. It would make a mockery of our entire inquiry."

In 1982, his district and that of U.S. Rep. John Porter (R., Ill.) were merged as a result of a reapportionment, and he chose not to run for re-election.

"For 20 years Bob McClory ably represented Lake County and was a major figure on the House Judiciary Committee," Porter said. "He will be best remembered for leadership during the Watergate hearing and his abiding commitment to the rule of law."

He is survived by his wife, Doris; a daughter, Beatrice Etienne; two sons, Oliver and Michael; a sister; six grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.

The Washington Post _____
The New York Times _____
The Washington Times _____
The Wall Street Journal _____
The Christian Science Monitor _____
New York Daily News _____
USA Today _____
The Chicago Tribune P.4 Sec.1

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